between them But the resolution of Lord Essex is not to yield but with altering the patent, -which cannot be done by persuasion to bring the Earl of Nottingham to it.

THE QUEEN AND M DE MAISSE

The Queen gave audience to M de Maisse to-dav, and m tteir conference together she declared that she would do naught without her Council, for there is naught so dangerous in affairs of State as self-opinion , but no longer hatb. sne such a Council as formerly, for she hath lost twenty or twenty-two of them The Ambassador replied that she could always make otherb , but the Queen answered that they were j-oung and not jet experienced in matters of state The Queen spale also of the krve of her people, saying that it is incredible, and she lo-veth them no less for it, and would die rather than lose any of it, to which the Ambassador answered that they are indeed happy to Irve under so good a Princess The Queen said also that she was now come almost to the edge of her grave, and ought to bethink her of death , whereat suddenly she checked herself in her speech saying, * I think not to die so soon, Master Ambassador , nor am I so old as they think [9]

Nevertheless Monsieur de Maisse complaineth that nothing is resolved, for the Queen cannot assemble the Council because of the discontents of my Lord of Essex who will not sit with the rest, and she will resolve nothing without him Twice my Lord hath left the Court not to return again, but each time he has been sent for the same day and come back again Since the ambassador's coming there has been nothing spoken of in Court but this brabble

z^tb December THE PRICE OF PEPPER

This Chnstmastide pepper is being sold in London at 8s the pound, which is much noted because of the

former restraint of the bringing in of pepper till all that captured in the Great Carrack, four years since, should be sold Raisins this year are being sold at 6d. the pound, Gascon wines at 2s 8d the gallon, and sweet wines at 43.

December NEW PLA^S

The Admiral's men have played four new plays this month,

^ii^ TbatunUbesbattbe.